THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) It has been reported by University Grants Commission (UGC) that no such specific information has come to its notice. However, being aware of the general position regarding vacancies in the University System, UGC has issued a circular advising all the universities to make use of the existing provisions for re-employment of superanuated teachers upto the age of 65 years and the State Governments to take immediate action for filling up the vacant posts as per the norms of the Commission. The Central Government has also written to State Governments in this regard.

(c) There is not such proposal.

Status of MAS, Shimla

2006. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major functions and activities of MAS., Shimla and how it differs from other research and educational institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that no certificates or authentications are issued to those scholars who successfully complete their project; if so, how it is recognized outside; and

(c) what is the current policy of Government to ensure regional balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The primary role of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (HAS), Shimla is to promote a free creative enquiry into the fundamental themes and problems of life and thought, which have deep human significance, The function of the Institute is to provide an environment suitable for academic research and to undertake, organize, guide and promote, advanced research in selected subjects in the Humanities, Indian Culture, Comparative Religion, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and such other areas, as the Institute may, from time to time, decide. Unlike conventional educational institutions, the MAS, Shimla is not a degree-awarding teaching institution. The work of the scholars of the HAS is recognized by the publication of their work, as is the case of scholars pursuing research after earning their degrees.

(c) According to the HAS, Shimla, the Institute selects its fellows from all over the country, and holds its seminars in different regions of the country.

Educational Institutions owned by Minority Community

2007. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many educational institutions owned by minority community in various States;

(b) if so, the details including the number of such institutions and professional education institutions, State-wise, category-wise as on date;

(c) the details and number of such institutions and professional educations that are having "Minority Status", State-wise, category-wise as on date; and

(d) the details of legislation to confer "Minority Status" to an educational institution and professional education as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No information on minority educational institutions in States is maintained centrally.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Publishing of photographs of voters In voters' list

†2008. SHRI JAIPARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Section Commission of India is contemplating on publishing photos of voters in voters' list to keep a check on bogus voting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission of India has Informed that a pilot project was undertaken in Kerala and Haryana for photo electoral rolls and the results were encouraging. Thereafter, during revision of 2005

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.